

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A reel device comprising:

- (A) a chassis;
- 5 (B) an actuator attached to the chassis;
- (C) a reel structure rotatably attached to the chassis, the reel structure comprising
 - (a) a hub;
 - (b) a frame defining the periphery of the reel structure, the periphery of the reel structure comprising media adapted to display a symbol to a game
- 10 player;
- (D) a board attached to the chassis; and
- (E) a plurality of light-emitting diodes positioned on the board, wherein the plurality of light-emitting diodes is adapted to transmit light to at least a portion of the media.

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2. The reel device of claim 1, the reel structure further comprising a spoke attached to the hub and the frame.

20 3. The reel device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of light-emitting diodes are more densely spaced in one portion of the board than another portion of the board.

4. The reel device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of light-emitting diodes emit different colors than another portion of the plurality of light-emitting diodes.

5. The reel device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes may be illuminated individually.
- 5 6. The reel device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes may form illuminated numbers, characters, symbols, or letters.
7. The reel device of claim 1 wherein the light emitting diodes comprise a indium gallium arsenide or gallium nitride light emitting diode.
- 10 8. The reel device of claim 1 wherein the light emitting diodes comprise an organic light emitting diode.
9. The reel device of claim 1, further comprising a controller in communication with the light emitting diodes, wherein the controller selectively illuminates the light emitting diodes.
- 15 10. The reel device of claim 9 wherein at least a portion of the light emitting diodes emit light at more than one wavelength, the wavelength of emission being selected by the controller.

11. A method for awarding prizes comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

- (A) providing a gaming device, the gaming device comprising at least a first mechanical spinning wheel, the first wheel rotatable about an axis, the first wheel comprising translucent media, a board mounted inside the first wheel, the board comprising a plurality of light emitting diodes;
- (B) determining a game outcome;
- (C) rotating the wheel, the wheel having a portion viewable by the player;
- (D) illuminating at least a portion of the light emitting diodes;
- (E) stopping the mechanical reel in accordance with the game outcome; and
- (F) awarding a prize to the player if the game outcome is a winning event.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the illuminated portion of the light emitting diodes is correlated to symbols appearing on the media in the locations viewable by the player.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein at least a portion of the illuminated light emitting diode appear colored.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the color of the illuminated light emitting diodes is correlated to the symbol viewable by the player.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the color of the illuminated symbol is correlated to a prize the player may be awarded.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising randomly choosing the color of at least one symbol at least partially communicating a game outcome.

5 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising awarding the player a more valuable prize if the randomly determined color matches a predetermined color.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising allowing the player to play a bonus game if the randomly determined color matches a predetermined color.

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19. The method of claim 11 wherein the game outcome is determined by the color of a symbol displayed on the media.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein:

15 (A) the gaming device further comprises a second mechanical spinning wheel, the second wheel rotatable about an axis, the second wheel comprising translucent media, a board mounted inside the second wheel, the board comprising a plurality of light emitting diodes;

(B) the game outcome is determined by the color of a symbol appearing on media associated with the first wheel and the identity of symbols appearing on media associated with at least the second wheel.

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21. The method of claim 11 further comprising displaying the game outcome to the player as a series of symbols appearing on media strips associated with the reels in relation to at least one pay line.

5 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the symbols appearing on the pay line are illuminated differently than other symbols displayed to the player.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising illuminating in a first manner a first symbol appearing on a pay line and illuminating in a second manner a second symbol appearing
10 on a pay line.

24. A gaming device having a backlit reel comprising:

- (A) a housing;
- (B) a controller disposed within the housing, the controller controlling gaming components and determining a game outcome;
- 5 (C) at least one mechanical reel assembly the reel structure comprising
 - (a) a substantially cylindrical reel having a circumference;
 - (b) media disposed about cylinder;
 - (c) a plurality of light emitting diodes disposed in the interior of the cylinder;
- (D) a value acceptor coupled to the housing and in communication with the game controller;
- 10 (E) a player input device coupled to the housing and in communication with the controller, the player input device allowing a player to activate a game.

25. The gaming device of claim 24 the mechanical reel structure further comprising a light emitting diode board, the light emitting diodes being coupled to the light emitting diode board, the light emitting diode board being positioned to illuminate the media in a substantially backlit manner.

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26. The gaming device of claim 24 wherein members of the plurality of light emitting diodes emit light at different wavelengths.

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27. The gaming device of claim 24 wherein a portion of the light emitting diodes emit light at multiple wavelengths, the wavelengths of emission selected by the controller.

28. The gaming device of claim 24 wherein the media comprises a translucent material that may be illuminated by the light emitting diodes.

5 29. The gaming device of claim 28 wherein the media comprises a plurality of indicia.

30. The gaming device of claim 29 wherein the indicia are substantially uncolored.

10 31. The gaming device of claim 29, the media further comprising a bonus indicating indicia indicating that a player is entitled to a bonus.

15 32. The gaming device of claim 31 wherein the bonus comprises play on a bonus game, wherein the bonus indicia comprises a substantially uncolored indicia illuminated by colored light emitting diodes.

20 33. The gaming device of claim 24 further comprising a light emitting diode board, the light emitting diodes coupled to the light emitting diode board, the light emitting diode board in communication with the controller, the controller selectively illuminating the light emitting diodes.

34. The gaming deice of claim 33 further comprising a light emitting diode controller intermediate the light emitting diode board and the controller, the light emitting diode controller selectively illuminating the light emitting diodes in response to signals from the controller.
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35. The gaming device of claim 24 wherein the media is disposed about the circumference of the cylinder.
- 10 36. The gaming device of claim 24 wherein the cylinder rotates about the light emitting diodes.
37. The gaming device of claim 24 further comprising a bonus game display coupled to the housing, the mechanical reel comprising a primary game, the bonus game activated upon the occurrence of a predetermined game outcome of the primary game.
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38. A device for displaying indicia to a game player comprising:
 - (A) display means for displaying game indicia to a player;
 - (B) support means for holding the display means in a position viewable by a player,
5 the support means being rotatable about an axis;
 - (C) frame means for holding the supports means, the support means being rotatably connected to the frame means;
 - (D) actuation means for rotating the support means;
 - (E) light emitting diode illumination means for display means, the illumination means positioned so as to illuminate the display means in a substantially backlit manner;
10 and
 - (F) controller means for activating the actuation means and selectively illuminating the illuminating means to illuminate the display means.
- 15 39. The device of claim 38 further comprising an illumination support means, the illumination means being coupled to the illumination support means.
40. The device of claim 38 wherein the support means is substantially cylindrical.
- 20 41. The device of claim 38 wherein the actuating means comprises a stepper motor.
42. The device of claim 38 wherein the display means is substantially translucent.

43. The device of claim 38 wherein the controller means comprises a microprocessor.

44. A reel device comprising:

- (A) a rotatable reel;
- (B) media attached to the rotatable reel;
- 5 (C) an actuator coupled to the reel, the actuator configured to rotate the reel;
- (D) a controller, the controller in communication with the actuator and configured to cause the actuator to rotate the reel in accordance with a random game outcome; and
- (E) at least one light in communication with the controller and adapted to transmit light on at least a portion of the media, wherein the transmission of light on the media at least partially conveys the random game outcome.

10 45. The reel device of claim 44, the light comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.

15 46. The reel device of claim 44 wherein the media is at least partially transparent.

47. The reel device of claim 44 wherein the media is at least partially translucent.

20 48. The reel device of claim 44 wherein the media has an outer surface and an inner surface and is configured to transmit light from the outer surface to the inner surface, wherein the light is positioned to transmit light to the inner surface of the media.

49. The gaming device of claim 44 wherein the reel rotates about the light.
50. The gaming device of claim 44 wherein the media is disposed about the circumference of the reel.

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51. The gaming device of claim 44 wherein the media comprises a plurality of indicia.